

NCLB Committee of Practitioners

MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2002

Mesa School Student Services Center

Grand Canyon Room

1025 N. Country Club Drive

Mesa, AZ

IN ATTENDANCE

COP MEMBERS

Julia Ayres
Christine Bejarano
Pamela Bergstrom
Steve Chambers
Karen Copley
Kaye Dean
Shelly Duran
Robert Edgar
Tonya Ford
Diane Fox
Tim Frey
Lannie Gillespie
Maureen Irr
Bruce Iverson
Sylvia Johnson
Mary Anne Kapp
Gloria Keith
Barbara Kilian

Robert Klee
Lois Lamar
Norma Malamud
Patricia Marsh
Jill Martinez
Mary McIntyre
Joe O'Reilly
Patricia Osborne
Alejandro Perez
Gail Powell
Lucille Schonbrun
Catherine Steele
Julie Thayer
Lynn Thompson
Barbara U'Ren
Maureen Ward
Deone Wiley

ADE

Patricia Fleming
Joyce Hunter
Muriel Rosman
Nancy Stahl
Katie Stevens
Kim Strehlow

GUESTS

Shelly Billig

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kaye Dean, COP Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 9:05 am. All participants made introductions. The group broke into subcommittees with the goal of finalizing the action plan to meet subcommittee goals. At 10:10 a.m., the COP meeting began with approval of the meeting minutes for September 20, 2003, followed by subcommittee reports.

Accountability Committee

The Accountability Committee introduced a motion to provide the ADE with a Technical Advisory Team to assist in the transition to the administration of Superintendent-elect Tom Horne. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Effective Practices Committee

Patricia Fleming of ADE, who is part of a national group that is working with NCCSR regarding scientifically based research, has been working in close conjunction with this subcommittee. She presented the question of how best to disseminate information on scientifically based research, since the main goal of this subcommittee is to assist LEAs in evaluating programs founded on scientifically based research.

Patricia reported that she had attended an NCCSR meeting in San Francisco on the process of creating a workshop and a rubric/checklist that practitioners can use to determine if programs and strategies come up to the “gold standard” of scientifically research based. A pilot will be run in AZ between the 1st and 15th of December and will be presented to the public between the 1st and 15th of January.

Implementation Committee

This subcommittee reported that questions in the following areas remained unanswered and should be dealt with in future meetings:

1. How to assist LEAs in the area of completing effective needs assessments?
2. How should evaluations of progress toward meeting school improvement plan objections be handled?
3. What about hiring Reading Specialists? Could services be provided to LEAs by regional consortiums such as the MSRTC?
4. Do External Facilitators fit in after the school improvements plans are approve, and if so, how?
5. Will there be a template available for the Final NCLB Consolidated Plan due on June 30, 2003, and if so, when?
6. For schoolwide plans, the 10 components to be covered need clarification and direction. Will the ADE provide this assistance?

The Chair concurred that these concerns should be a part of future agendas.

Recognition Committee

Shelly Duran reported that two Distinguished Graduates had been selected. They will travel attend the Title I National Conference January 31- February 4, 2003 in Anaheim, CA.

The selection of Distinguished Schools has been put on hold for the present.

The Chair remarked that only four candidates had applied, therefore, it seemed that more publicity was needed about the availability of these recognition programs in Arizona.

Membership Committee

Steve Chambers presented several issues for consideration.

- A COP member representing school boards had lost her school board seat in the recent election. Her term on the COP would be up at the end of this school year. He asked ADE to determine if the federal guidelines allowed her to remain on the COP until the end of her term.
- No description for an Emeritus status membership procedure could be found, so he asked if the ADE could provide guidelines to the subcommittee.
- On the question of members not attending meetings, clarification was that a letter of intent to continue on the COP be sent to any members not attending at least two meetings per year.
- In looking at the *Operating Guidelines*, the last statements on page 2 were contradictory. A recommendation was made that the word “any” be inserted prior to “meetings” as cause for a letter to be sent requesting resignation.
- Finally, the recruitment for a parent representative on the COP had resulted in the nomination of Kenneth Smith, who met all the criteria and was, therefore, recommended for membership.

The Chair asked for a motion on approving Kenneth Smith for COP membership. It was so moved and seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Catherine Steele, a junior high school principal in the San Carlos Unified District, was introduced by the Chair as the newest COP member in attendance.

ADE UPDATE: Katie Stevens

Katie Stevens reported on the ADE Interim Plan and Fiscal Application workshops, which were held in the RTCs around the state to facilitate LEA completion of these requirements. Second, she talked about the Nov. 18 State Board meeting where approval was likely to be finalized for denying all discretionary funding to LEAs not in compliance with federal requirements and assurances. Third, she stated that a partial draft of the Final NCLB Plan template has been developed and is awaiting release of the final USDE regulations. Fourth, she announced that the ADE federal review scheduled for Nov. 18-20 had been postponed until next February due to refinement in their monitoring procedures. Fifth, Katie stated there is continuing dialogue between the USDE and ADE

regarding AYP. Sixth, there is a need to concentrate on the School Improvement Plans (SIP) first and then on schoolwide plans. Questions remain about measurable objectives tied to AYP and the plans.

RMC REPORT

Shelly Billig of RMC was introduced and reported that “supplement vs. supplant” issues regarding AZ LEARNS had been forwarded to USDE. In addition, quarterly assessments are not in the federal law but are in state law so clarification is needed before the end of the school year. Grade-level language arts and mathematics recommendations go before the State Board on Nov. 18, 2003. The SIP is 2 to 1 state-determined since Sections A & B are state requirements and only Section C has federal requirements. Last December RMC began comparing AZ LEARNS and NCLB section by section and this process is not completed since there are problems yet to be resolved. Shelly believes “the feds are standing firm on their requirements, so the state will probably have to compromise.” Also, ADE transition issues are being amassed by Cassandra Larsen for the incoming Superintendent to consider in January.

Gail Powell, who is an external facilitator, added that the needs assessment should be looked at externally because internal school staff are often too close to be completely objective. This is time-consuming but probably the most helpful to producing a school improvement plan that is based on actual data, not on what is thought to be a problem.

In response to a question, Katie Stevens affirmed that schools with approved school improvement plans could just put these plans onto the SIP template to satisfy both NCLB and AZ LEARNS rules. She also agreed that under Title III guidelines, the 144 LEAs receiving less than a \$10,000 allocation could only use their funding through a consortium while the 89 LEAs receiving \$10,000 or more could apply for the funding directly. The threshold for the \$10,000 allocation is having 146 ELL students. Also, she stated that 15 schools were able to get out of school improvement based on the Oct. 2003 profiles.

Shelly Billig then gave a PowerPoint presentation on research relating to school improvement. (Copies will be e-mailed to all members prior to the January meeting.)

Future Meeting Dates

January 10, 2003

March 7, 2003

May 9, 2003

Paradise Valley Unified District

Casa Grande Elementary District

Alhambra Elementary District (tentative)

Adjournment at 1:35 pm.